

REMARKS

Appellants are submitting the above claim amendments to put the claims in condition for allowance or at least obviate some issues for appeal. Specifically, claims 1, 21, and 50 have been amended to recite that the compounds act as RNase substrates when complexed with complementary RNA and are supported by the specification on page 6, last paragraph. Claim 40 has been amended to recite the specific modified compound prepared and is supported by the specification on page 7. Claim 50 has been amended to recite that the compound comprises at least two nuclease resistant components and that each nuclease resistant component comprises 2 or 3 contiguous phosphodiester-linked 2'-deoxynucleosides between the B and M moiety and is supported by the specification (see examples). Additionally, claim 11 has been amended to remove recitation of "phosphotriesters". None of the claim amendments contain new matter.

Claim 53 has been added to recite that M is a phosphotriesters substituted nucleotide and is supported by the specification (for example, see original claim 11).

New claim 54 has been added to recite a specific embodiment. It specifically recites that the modified nucleotide acts as an RNase H substrate when complexed with complementary RNA and includes at least one component selected from the group consisting of MN_3M , $B(N)_xM$ and $(N)_xM(N)_yB$ wherein: N is a phosphodiester-linked modified or unmodified 2'-deoxynucleoside moiety; provided that at least one N is a phosphodiester-linked unmodified 2' deoxynucleoside moiety; M is a moiety that confers endonuclease resistance on said component and that contains at least one modified or unmodified nucleic acid base; B is a moiety that confers exonuclease resistance to the terminus to which it is attached; x is an integer of at least 2 where when the compound is $B(N)_xM$ or $(N)_xM(N)_yB$, M is selected from the group consisting of an alkylphosphonate, aminophosphonate, phosphotriester,

phosphoramidate, carbamate and morpholino-substituted nucleotide and is supported by the specification. No new matter is added.

Appellants assert that these claim amendments put the claims in condition for allowance or at least obviate some issues on appeal.

If a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of the present application, Applicants' undersigned attorney request that he be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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